

November 5, 1942

Rev. W. J. Siefkes Dies of Heart Attack

The Rev. W. J. Siefkes, a resident of the Groton community since 1931, died suddenly of heart attack at his home northwest of this city early Monday. He had been in his usual good health and spirits up to the end. His death therefore came as a distinct shock to his family, friends and neighbors.

Funeral services will be held at the St. John's Lutheran church in Groton Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5th with the Rev. J. E. Schwarting, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the Groton union cemetery.

Wilhelm Johann Siefkes was a native of Leer, Ostfriesland, Germany, born there on December 4, 1864, but came to the United States in early manhood. After pursuing studies at the seminary of the Iowa Synod of the Lutheran church at Dubuque, Iowa, he was ordained to the ministry in 1893 and served charges at Butler Center, Iowa, Ft. Collins, Colo., Everly and Pringhar, Iowa. He was again called to Ft. Collins, Colo., and later served churches at New Underwood, S. D., Beulah and Ashley, N. D.

Becoming afflicted with deafness he retired from the ministry and soon after came to the Groton community to make his home.

He was married to Miss Harmine Reints on June 27, 1890, and three sons and four daughters were born to the union, all of whom survive except a son who died at the age of three. They are: His wife, Harmine; two sons, Vern and George, and four daughters, Mrs. Elsie Reints, Mrs. Chris. Meyer, Troy, S. D., Mrs. Howard Jensen, Tracy, Minn., Mrs. Nick Kotsakos, Marshall, Minn., and ten grand children.

Although mingling little with his neighbors, perhaps on account of his impaired hearing, the deceased was highly esteemed as a fine christian gentleman by all who knew him.